

Union and American.

Thursday, January 27th, 1876.

FARM AND GRANGE.

TOBACCO—ASSORTING, STRIPPING AND FINAL PREPARATION FOR MARKET.

In assorting the Bright Yellow Wrapper tobacco—unless it is all perfectly bright, which is seldom the case—it is best to make five classes, long bright, short bright, long dark, short dark and lugs. It should be stripped and tied up in neat bundles with smooth heads and not over eight leaves to any bundle, and got into soft and plant order and packed straight, in tierces that will weigh 600 or 700 lbs. The common kind of tobacco should be assorted into three classes—long leaf, short leaf and lugs; and should, likewise, be tied up into neat and small bundles, never exceeding eight leaves to the bundle—always selecting a neat leaf that the heads may be smooth and nicely tied up; it should then be hung up in the barn so thin as to come to a regular and uniform condition through the entire house. After it is once perfectly dry, you may look out for your condition season. This will frequently occur when your little expect it—sometimes under the influence of a warm Eastern or Southern wind, it will be found to soften. Whenever it has come sufficiently in order to press in the hand without breaking the leaf, (but the stem still dry two-thirds of the way down,) your tobacco is in safe prize order and you must make haste to secure it in this order, by packing it in a broad bulk—the larger the better—when, if weighed and wrapped with straw, it will await your convenience for pricing. It is best that your condition bulk should be slightly elevated and the stalks removed, so that the air can pass freely under it, or you may find the bottom courses affected somewhat by the dampness arising from the earth; and if it remains long in bulk, straw should be basted around the heads of the bundles, which will prevent any appearance of mould. And here we would remind you, is the point at which many planters fail, and, consequently, are disappointed in their expectations, and make heavy complaints against their commission merchants, buyers of tobacco, markets, &c., while the fault is with themselves. Tobacco is by no means an exception to the general laws of trade in this respect. A man who trusts a horse on the market, in bad condition, or "out of order," does not expect more than half price, and is not usually disappointed. Owing to the peculiar nature of tobacco, there is no point more essential than particularity of the order, and keeping each color, size, and kind to itself. The buyer, in bidding for a hoghead of tobacco, is frequently governed—not by what it is worth at the moment, but what it will probably be worth when he is ready to use it, two or three months hence, when—if the order was bad—it will have materially depreciated in value. The tobacco when it comes to the hoghead should be in safe keeping order—straight and well assorted as to length and color; never put two kinds in the same hoghead, for nine times out of ten the hoghead will be sold by the most inferior flake drawn for the sale-sample; and we have often seen one bundle of inferior tobacco injure the sale of the hoghead one or two dollars per cwt. A safe rule in pricing is, for the planter to expect the most indifferent tobacco in the hoghead to turn out the sale-sample, and he will find it a safe basis of expectation. The hoghead should be made of well seasoned, sawed pine staves, clear of knots, 8 to 10 inches wide and 4 to 4½ thick, 4½ feet long, and the hoghead to be thirty-eight inches across the crow strongly and tightly coopered, with 8 good hoops, and there should be a nail in every stave at the bottom, for the convenience of stripping at the warehouse. Fine tobacco should rather be carefully packed and pressed than prized. Hogheads of fine manufacturing or stemming tobacco should not exceed 1,000 lbs. in weight. Shipping tobacco and lugs should be prized to weigh 1,400 to 1,500 pounds.

The best preparation for exterminating ants and bugs is to mix half a pint of spirits of wine with half a pint of kerosene in a strong bottle, adding about half an ounce of good camphor, which will readily dissolve. By simply touching an ant, bug or insect with this mixture it will be instantly killed. It should not be used where there is a light, and should be shaken well before application. By brushing over the crevices and holes where ants usually appear, with a brush or sponge dipped in this preparation, it will be found to work an effectual cure.

THE PATRONS IN TENNESSEE.

[Knoxville Age.]

Nothing has yet occurred in the history of the Patrons of Husbandry in Tennessee to shake our confidence in its future stability and success. We do not deny that some things have occurred we had rather not, but then we are all fallible. None of us are perfect. If we have committed mistakes, let us have the charity to conclude that they were more of the head than the heart, and, in the future, strive to guard against them. We have simply been passing through our probationary existence. It has been one of trial. Our noble Order sprang suddenly into existence. It swept like a tornado over the State. There was but little time for thought and investigation. We hurriedly concluded that we would reap all at once immense financial advantages and that we would reduce the price of everything we had to buy to a mere song. Scores of good men have been disappointed in this expectation not so much, let us justly remark, on account of the inability of the Order to bring about this result as on account of the inefficiency of many of the subordinate granges in laying hold of the financial benefits extended to them by the Order. If such benefits have not been secured it has been because the granges referred to have not done their duty.

We have been more troubled and bothered by our business system than by any other cause. Somehow or other we have never been fully able to devise and put forth a system that would meet the demands of the Order. We have been at sea. We have floundered in the depths of its mighty waters. We had hoped, ere this, that some financial brain would arise and prove itself equal to the emergency of leading us underlings through the intricate labyrinth of trade. We have been disappointed. At first we seemed to start off right, that of uniting as granges and trading directly with the manufacturers and merchants, and of selling our products directly to the consumers. This was easy, natural and legitimate, and our people comprehended it without an effort. Many of them seized the plan and went to work on it and were successful. Directly, however, it began to be whispered that we had better have agents, general and local, and in the course of time, that plan was inaugurated, and with what success we leave to others to determine.

For one we had ardently hoped, in common with hundreds of others, the National Grange, at its recent session in Louisville, would be equal to the occasion and draft a business plan that would meet the exigencies of the Order. It was not done, and what is worse, it seems to have been given up in despair. It was, it is true, agitated, but the agitation only developed the apparent incapacity of that body to handle the problem. Some were in favor of employing agents on stipulated salaries, while some were for their working their way along on commissions. What will the Tennessee State Grange do? It will soon assemble in Jackson, West Tennessee. It will be called upon to shoulder this question and to put it in a shape to satisfy our people from one end of the State to the other. We are inclined to believe that we have been trying too hard to build up a system which has been in vogue from time immemorial. Whether we can do this successfully, is the question, and it is one we are compelled to investigate. It is apparent to every careful observer that every attempt we have made to establish a business of our own, we have been confronted with sharp competition and forced to come down accordingly.

EXPERIMENTAL FARMING IN TENNESSEE.

That intelligent, energetic farming pays in this State, may be seen by the following facts presented to the Country Gentleman by a correspondent writing from Franklin, over the signature of J. B. M.:—

Nothing but unadulterated laziness can keep the farmers from making the business pay well in this part of the State; they can work from the beginning to the end of the year, and never be stopped by the weather, and they can so rotate their crops as to have something in market every month of the year. I am no farmer, but an experimenter, and give only a small portion of my time to it, and I manage to have something always ready for market. Commencing in the spring with wool, lambs, mutton, wheat, oats, hay, clover, millet, herdsgrass, timothy, pork, mules, beef, fruit, potatoes, turnips, etc. My gross products this year were \$7,000; expenses, \$2,500, and land improved. Wheat, rye and oats all growing finely, and land broken and subsoiled for next year's corn crop.

There is not only a text but a capital sermon in the above exhibit.

HINTS ABOUT MEAT.

Pepper is a preventive of decay, in a degree, and it is well, therefore, to pepper hang joints.

Powdered charcoal is still more remarkable in its effect. It will not only keep the meat over which it is sprinkled good, but will remove the taint from already decayed flesh.

A piece of charcoal boiled in the water with "High" meat or fowls, will render it or them quite sweet. A piece of charcoal, or powdered charcoal should be kept in every larder. Ham, after being smoked, may be kept for any length of time, packed in powdered charcoal.

Meat should be wiped with a dry clean cloth, as soon as it comes from the butchers; fly-blows, if found in it, cut out, and in joints the long pipe that runs by the bone should be taken out, as it soon taints; the kernels, also, should be removed from beef. Never receive bruised joints.

Meat will keep good for a long time in cold weather, and if frozen through, may be kept for months. Frozen meat must be thawed before it is cooked, by plunging it into cold water, or placing it before the fire before setting down to roast. It will never be dressed through if this precaution is not taken, not even when twice cooked.

DIVERSIFIED FARMING.

1. Because under the present system the market is overstocked with some products, and the price is correspondingly low, while right here at our doors other farm products bring as much as in New York city, a great centre of consumption and export. Diversity of cropping tends to equalize prices.

2. Because diversity of cropping means rotation, and under a system of rotation, larger crops can be produced each year, and the fertility of the soil will last much longer than when the same crop is sown year after year.

3. Because it is safer. He who stakes all upon a single crop, merely buys a ticket in a good lottery. If everything proves favorable, he gets a good thing and a large sum of money at once. But if the crop proves a poor one, he is in a correspondingly poor condition.

4. It distributes the labor, and the cash receipts also, more equally through the year. Thus little bills can be paid as they become due and the long credit system discontinued.

5. Another advantage will arise from fewer purchases at the grocery and a greater variety in the house fare.—*Western Rural.*

POLAND-CHINAS.

The Poland-China hogs are said to have originated in Butler county, Ohio, with a breeder named Magie, from a cross between Poland and China swine. Hence they are called Butler-county hogs by some, by other Magie hogs, and by the majority Poland-China, which is now the accepted designation. They have been largely crossed with the Berkshire, and the majority of cases have been much improved thereby. They are a favorite class of hogs in the West, and doubtless, if carefully bred by a skillful breeder might be brought to a fixed and valuable type. As they now are, they are variable in character, although when well fed they make a large, handsome hog.—*American Agriculturist.*

CABBAGE FOR STOCK.

Having tried this article of food two years, for cows in milk, I am of the opinion that more good fodder can be grown on an acre than of any other. They also will force cows to give milk over all other food. They require no machine to cut them. No bad taste to the milk was discovered. They are easily grown. I prefer them to any variety of roots. If you have more than you wish to feed, sell the best; they readily bring \$5 to \$7 per hundred, the large and rough leaves being left for stock at time of pulling. We used a pair of pruning shears, cutting off the stem, rapidly and easily, about three inches below the head.—*Cor. Country Gentleman.*

A SCHOOL OF SHEPHERDS.

A school of shepherds is established at the national sheep farm of Bambouillet, France. In this school young men, over 15 years of age, are instructed in all the arts of sheep husbandry during a term of two years. After passing credibly through this term and a final examination, the graduates receive a certificate of capacity, and the most capable are rewarded with a prize of \$75; the second best receive \$5. They then become apprentices, and can either go to keeping sheep for themselves or seek employment from owners of flocks.—*Am. Agriculturist.*

A man of Ottawa, Canada, having a horse that he found useless, drove it into the bush on a cold night, chopped the hoofs off the poor animal in order to get the shoes, and then left it to its fate.

THE WEEKLY SUN.

1776. NEW YORK. 1876.

Eighteen hundred and seventy-six is the Centennial year. It is also the year in which an Opposition House of Representatives, the first since the war, will be in power at Washington; and the year of the twenty-third election of a President of the United States. All of these events are sure to be of great interest and importance, especially the two latter; and all of them will be fully and freshly reported and expounded in *The Sun*.

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The twenty-third Presidential election, with the preparations for it, will be memorable as deciding upon Grant's aspirations for a third term of power and plunder, and still more as deciding who shall be the candidate of the party of Reform, and as electing that candidate. Concerning all these subjects, those who read *The Sun* will have the constant means of being thoroughly well informed.

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